3; Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

PREFACE

121 THE idea of writing this book came to me after a talk given early in 1951 to the Winnipeg Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. It was clear on that occasion that a well-informed group of Canadians knew little about Austria and that their potential interest in the subject was considerable.

As a student of international relations I have frequently felt the need of the kind of objective general study of contemporary conditions in another part of the world that this book sets out to be. If we keep moving in the right direction, the obligations of twentieth-century citizenship will extend increasingly beyond national politics. And political obligations, international in scope, can only be satisfactorily fulfilled on a basis of widening knowledge.

Post-War Austria is a subject both interesting in itself and typical of the troubled continent of which it is the geographical centre. Its importance to Europeans needs no emphasis, but it is a subject also of particular significance to the people of North America, who have emerged from the War with greater relative wealth and increased productive capacity.

Two things are required by the author of the type of study I have mentioned: versatility and leisure to do maximum justice to a moving scene. These I have not possessed in the measure in which they are needed. To present a balanced picture I have had to deal with subjects of which I have little technical knowledge, and I have had to combine the whole undertaking with my normal academic duties. In spite of these disadvantages, the absence of any general study of Austria since the war has encouraged me to make the attempt.

114 The chief difficulty in writing about recent events is the lack of reliable sources. Official documents may be inaccessible, and statistics are not always available. The fact that Austria is an occupied country makes the situation worse: the occupying

3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

Powers suffer from diplomatic reticence, and the Austrians themselves are under restraint.

From February 1946 to October 1949 I was working in Austria as British Council Representative. The many contacts I made then have been invaluable in the preparation of this book, and I owe a great deal to my Austrian friends and acquaintances. They have helped me in a wide variety of ways and have given encouragement and constructive criticism. I am particularly indebted to my colleagues at Vienna University and to many good friends who are engaged in educational and cultural work.

I want especially to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Leopold Figl, who has just laid down the burden of his memorable Chancellorship, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Adolf Schärf, and other members of the Austrian Cabinet who spared time last year to see me and answer questions. I am most grateful to Dr. Felix Hurdes, Former Minister of Education and now President of the National Assembly, and Dr. Leopold Zechner, President of the Vienna School Board, with both of whom my duties as British Council Representative brought me into frequent contact. Dr. Heinrich Gleissner and Dr. Ernst Koref, to whom this book is dedicated, and Professor Ludwig Adamovich, President of the Constitutional Court, have also been most helpful. I have been very fortunate in being able to talk to a large number of Austrian civil servants about the problems of their departments and to read many unpublished departmental papers.

Sources for the period of the Provisional Government, from April to December 1945, are particularly scarce. There was no Parliament, there were few newspapers, and comparatively little has been published on the subject. British and American documents covering the period are still 'classified', and the publication of the reports of the British and American Elements had not started. I have therefore depended largely on information gathered in interviews with some of the Austrians and British who played leading parts in the events of that time. Some of my most reliable informants, however, spoke freely on the understanding that they would not be quoted.

3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

Any student of post-War Austria is fortunate in being able to consult the publications of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research. I owe a special debt to its courteous director, Dr. Franz Nemschak, and have made very large use of the statistics produced by the Institute. However, since they were not always in the form required to illustrate the text, I have occasionally drawn on other sources as well. I must therefore take full responsibility for the accuracy of the figures quoted.

114

I am very grateful to the Canadian Social Science Research Council and to the University of Manitoba for their support in the production of this book.

Finally, I wish to thank the many friends who have helped me in a variety of ways. I am especially indebted to those who have read and criticized all or parts of the manuscript, and to Dr. Hans Schwabl of Vienna, who kindly assisted me on points of fact while I was working in Canada.

The manuscript was completed shortly before the Austrian elections on 22nd February 1953. It was then held back for more than five weeks pending the formation of a new government.

RICHARD HISCOCKS

WINNIPEG, 7 *April* 1953

122 The generosity of the Creditanstalt-Bankverein in Vienna, Austria, has enabled the Library of Congress to put into operation a program of Foreign Consultants in Austria. One of the main duties of the Foreign Consultant is to report on the general trends in his subject field and on the special attention given to particular aspects, in short, to prepare a picture of the intellectual progress in his area of responsibility.

● 114 Dr. Franz Heissenberger was born in 1899. He attended the Academy for Commercial Studies and later the University of Vienna where he received his doctoral degree in law in 1926, and in political science in 1929. He joined the staff of the Anglo-Austrian Bank Ltd. in Vienna advancing to the position of department chief. After the war, in 1946, he joined the Austrian civil service as chief of the Economic and Financial Department of the Austrian Ministry of Planning and later on of the Austrian Ministry of Nationalized Enterprises. In this capacity he also served as editor of the ERP Quarterly Reports, submitted by the Austrian Government to the ECA Mission in Austria. Dr. Heissenberger later left the government service and resumed his activities as economist as member of the staff of the Creditanstalt-Bankverein in Vienna.

[Facing Title Page]

FOREWORD

114
122 This is the second study to be published in the Austrian program of Foreign Consultants to the Library of Congress, made possible through the generosity of the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Vienna.

It is the main duty of a Foreign Consultant to make a survey of the intellectual life in his country and in his field of responsibility and to include factual and bibliographical information which will encourage and facilitate research as well as direct contact between scholars, institutes and libraries. Dr. Franz Heissenberger offers in this study a short survey of Austrian thinking, teaching and research in the field of economics and its scholarly roots in past decades, and then concentrates on a detailed analytical description of the economic recovery of Austria, as a record of the events during the years 1945-1952. The strength of this survey lies in the abundance of material and information presented, compiled by an individual who was not dependent on published sources only but could draw on the knowledge and experience he acquired through his official and professional participation in this phase of Austria's economic life. The weakness of this study lies in the fact that it was translated in the field without the extensive professional editing and reorganization required for an English-speaking audience and this Division could only undertake minor adjustments and clarifications of the text without interfering basically with the author's intentions.

This study, besides being a concentrated source of information for additional research, represents an interesting documentation of Austria's positive efforts toward economic recovery and the decisive role the United States has played in it.

March 1953

Harry J. Krould, Chief
European Affairs Division